

# The Halyard

Virginia Department of Education  
Office of Educational Technology

March 3-10,  
2006



## Charlie's Chatter

Again! We are moving AGAIN! That was the battle cry when my fellow OET co-workers and I were told that we are being *temporarily* moved to the 24th floor. This will be our third move! If you remember, we moved from the 18th floor to the service level in December of 2004. We stayed there until late December of 2005 when they moved us to the 22nd floor. Now our offices are being moved to make room for the new technology-rich meeting and training facility. Construction is supposed to begin next week. Our permanent home will be on the 22nd floor but no timetable is set for our final move. So I packed my boxes again, and have created a rolling office with five file drawers—Two doors on each side and one in the back. It looks curiously like my car! Now if I only had a desk with drawers!

While we were packing, I found a poem that someone had sent me and I share it with you for those days when it seems that everything you planned has turned upside down.

### *Finish Every Day*

*Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt have crept in; forget them as soon as you can.*

*Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.*

*This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its homes and invitations, to waste a moment on yesterdays.*



<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/library.shtml>



### Take note of the following important events

- **March 7**-Shenandoah-Blue Ridge CC
- **March 15**: James-Longwood University
- **March 28**-Clinch- Southwest VA Higher Ed Center
- **March 29**-Roanoke-Higher Ed Center
- **March 31**-Rappahannock-Church of the Latter-Day Saints-Stafford
- **April 29**- Potomac-Stone Bridge HS, Ashburn
- **May 2**-York-King's Fork MS, Suffolk

## Internet Safety Sessions Come to DOE

In light of the increasing concerns for student safety while accessing the Internet, a workshop was held at the DOE featuring a free online K-12 curriculum entitled i-Safe. Participants were provided with information on how they could use these materials with teachers, students, and parents.

Fifty educators from around the state attended the workshop and left with information that they could use to help educate and inform members of their school community.

Additional workshops will be sponsored by the DOE in the coming weeks. School divisions can opt to

either bring the i-Safe trainer to their school division or contact Charlie Makela to schedule a workshop.

Additional information on Internet safety can be found in the newly revised Acceptable Use Handbook at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/AUP/home.shtml>



Information about i-Safe can be found at <http://www.isafe.org>



## Internet Safety: What can parents do?

1. Keep the computer in open area
2. Respect children's privacy but become aware of their surfing habits and their email buddies.
3. Talk with your children about rules and responsibilities of using the Internet.
4. Use generic user names.
5. Avoid posting personal pictures.
6. Avoid posting personal information.
7. Help your children to understand the power of a hateful email message. It is just like a face-to-face angry or a

*48 million students use the Internet daily*

8. Report threats to local police authorities.
9. Report cyber bullies to your Internet service provider.
10. Teach children not to respond to an

online 'flame'.

11. Encourage children to report anything that makes them uncomfortable to an adult.



## Cyber Gamblers

A September 2005 report from the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania estimates that "about 2.9 million young people gamble in an average week." Further, "the likelihood that young men will gamble on card games continues to increase." The survey of young people, ages 14 to 22, "found a 20% increase in monthly rates of card gambling compared with our previous study conducted in the summer of 2004." Internet gambling, according to the study,

jumped "from 1.1% in 2004 to 2.4% in 2005." Based on these numbers, "approximately 580,000 young people from 14 to 22 gamble on the Internet on a weekly basis. Most of these young people are under age 21. The report asked people to self-identify whether they suffer from one of four problem symptoms: "preoccupation, over-spending, tolerance and withdrawal." "In 2004, 44.9% of young people who gambled weekly reported at least one of the problem symp-

toms," according to the Annenberg report. "In 2005, the percentage increased to 54.5%." About 10% of the respondents said that their gambling led to owing other people money with an average debt of \$74.

## The Outrigger

Twenty library supervisors from across the state met on March 24 to begin to plan for the development of the electronic handbook for Virginia's librarians.

The topics were defined, communication strategies were established and a lively discussion of the topics was held.

Please be willing to provide assistance to these hard working volunteers when they contact you and ask you for assistance in the development of this project.



## Hanover Reading Olympians

The 2006 Reading Olympians county-wide competition took place at Stonewall Jackson Middle School. Over 180 middle school students in Hanover County participated in the rigorous event which challenged their knowledge of books that they had read during this school year.

Books and the questions were selected by the librarians at Chickahominy, Liberty, Oak Knoll and Stonewall Jackson Middle Schools. Other

*Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Non-Fiction, Realistic Fiction, and Science Fiction titles challenged the middle school readers!*

librarians from the county's schools served as moderators and time-keepers. The PTA of Stonewall provided pizza

and desserts while local area businesses provided ribbons and financial support.

Marilyn Walls, Lead teacher specialist for Libraries coordinates this program. For more information contact her at [mwalls@hanover.k12.va.us](mailto:mwalls@hanover.k12.va.us)



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### Shenandoah Regional VEMA

Kudos to Lin Hill and her committees for a wonderful day. There was a great crowd, fabulous vendors, and outstanding concurrent sessions.

The **general session** was presented by a group of drama students at Western Albermarle High School. These students brought the story of the development of the Shenandoah National Park to life.

"Mountain Home", written by Susan Hull, a local writer and directed by the school's drama teacher, Harriet Resio tells the story of a family's life in the Blue Ridge Mountains beginning in 1918 with the influenza pandemic and ending with their departure from their homeplace in 1936 after the Shenandoah National Park was established.

The students were outstanding in their portrayal of a side of Virginia's history that is not included in the text books. For more information about the New Deal project, go to <http://www.vahistory.org/shenandoah.html>

Other sessions on **blogging**, **wikis**, and of course there were sessions on **reading, reading, and reading**. One concurrent session block is devoted to book talks and is always a resounding success!

### Bloggin' with Charlie

Do you have an opinion? Are you a rabble rouser? Do you wish you could share an idea with someone? Do you wish you had someone to bounce ideas on? All of this and more can be yours by simply logging on to the Linking Libraries and Academic Achievement blog, at <http://admiral-charlie.edublogs.org/> Contributors are welcome. Let's use this technology to provide a stage for our professional conversations. Hope to 'read' you soon!



My new corner of DOE!  
Once again,  
I am practicing adjusting my sails!